

FREE SILVER

And How It Would Affect Workmen and Farmers

TALK FROM ARTHUR MIDDLETON

From the Standpoint of a Sound Money Democrat—Some Points for Railway Employees to Consider—Suckers Biting at the Silver Bait Will Live to Regret It. Politics in the Southern Section of this State.

Special Correspondence.

MOUNTAINS OF GREENBRIER, W. Va., Aug. 2.—It is over a week since I left home for rest and recuperation in the ever health-giving and beautiful mountain centres of this state—where blue grass grows as green as the shores of old Erin—where the song of the festive mosquito is not heard in the land and the sportive malarial microbe cannot live; neither does the fly break in and bite.

But there is no rest for the weary this fall. I leaped from the humid heat of the lowlands only to fall into the fiery furnace of politics. To land into a crucible hot enough to melt silver dollars into fifty-cent pieces and plenty of men unwise enough to burn and blister themselves in their efforts to keep the furnace going. While I am glad to say that I have found many gold Democrats and proud to say that they are men of influence and men of thought, yet the bulk of the democracy seems to be half crazy over the dangerous heresy—free and unlimited and independent coinage of silver. Strange as it may seem, and it is a burlesque on sound reasoning and deep thought, the most radical free silver men are those who will be the most injured by it. This is the first fight I have ever witnessed where the spoils will belong to the vanquished—where a man pays another a premium to have his own nasal organ smashed by the other fellow.

Taking it along the Chesapeake & Ohio railway and I find the day laborer a free silver man. He is to be pitted, not condemned, for he does not know that the bonded indebtedness of the railways of this country is over six thousand million dollars, payable in gold, both interest and principle; and that they employ close to one million men. Suppose that the monetary system is changed from its present standard to one of free silver, what will be the result? The directors of these roads will have to go into the market and buy gold to pay both interest and principle. Then what? They will be compelled to accept both fare and freight in silver, and that silver, every intelligent free silver man I have met would acknowledge, will be simply worth its bullion value, which is now about fifty-three cents on the dollar.

When these railway officials are obliged to accept a cheap dollar, and, as the states have fixed the rates of fare, under the present monetary system, and take that cheap dollar and buy gold to pay their bonds and interest, there can be but one result. As they cannot raise their tariff except by an act of the legislature, when it meets, perhaps a year or more after, and then take chances of not getting a bill to raise fares passed, they will have to cut down both their working force and their wages, or else close up shop and quit. If they cut down half their working force they thereby throw on the mercy of the world about 500,000 men. If they shut down entirely, what condition would the country be in? What would the merchant do? What would the farmer do with his produce, what would the entire country do? Commerce would be paralyzed, and when commerce is stricken with paralysis the whole country is a wreck. And I desire to call the attention of the Chesapeake & Ohio and Baltimore & Annapolis employees especially to the fact that the Chesapeake & Ohio has a large indebtedness of this kind, payable, as stated, in gold—an amount that runs up into the millions, and if any one doubts this all he has to do is to examine the trust deed books of any county through which the road runs. Free silver would ruin the Chesapeake & Ohio, and its employees would be seeking employment of other roads, which, being in the same predicament, would be compelled to turn them away.

In the meantime, the manufacturers of iron and steel would have to shut down. Mines would have to close or run on half time, half wages and payable in half dollar wages stamped a dollar. I only cite the Chesapeake & Ohio as an example which is close at home and one that can be investigated.

Who will be the greater loser under these conditions? The workmen. Even with silver at a parity of 20 to 1 and over a million idle laborers to enter into competition with all others engaged in any kind of labor, the competition alone would bring down the price of labor to 25 cents per day. You answer that a silver dollar will be worth one hundred cents when free silver is established. There are many answers to that question, but surely one is enough. When this government was not as deep in debt as now, a trade dollar with more silver in it than the present dollar has, was issued. It contained the government's stamp the same as a free silver dollar would have, but it was not backed by gold—only the government's stamp. Was it worth one hundred cents? It was not many years ago and almost every voter can remember what it was worth. Only 96 cents when it was first issued, because that was the bullion or commercial price of the silver it contained.

As silver declined that dollar's value declined until it would pass for only 50 cents. Is this not true? And did not the government have to call it in, melt it, and coin it into dollars of less silver, but backed by gold, and then that dollar, recoiled was, has been and ever will be worth one hundred cents?

The reason silver is not worth as much as gold as simply because Nature's God failed to make as much gold as silver, and as sure as natural law governs the seasons, make the grain to grow and the beautiful flower to raise its head among the weeds, that sure will the fundamental laws of commerce—the law of supply and demand, production and over-production, govern the value of all the commodities of life from a half-starved spring chicken at a summer resort to the value of a diamond mine.

As to state politics, I find General Watts the favorite and unless he is strengthened by his lately gained friends of Kanawha, he will be nominated. If it is to their interest to slaughter him they will, or vice versa. The same is true of ex-Governor Wilson, who is by far more popular for Congress in this section than Watts is for governor. It will be a bitter pill for this part of the district to take a man for governor and for Congress, both from Kanawha county. Both Democrats and Republicans of Kanawha want the earth with an iron fence around it and if they can't buy it, they will hog it.

A prominent Democrat remarked to me the other day: "I don't like General Watt's record much. I like Watts, but the very fact that he has held office under both of Cleveland's administrations and was and is a Cleveland Democrat, I have doubts as to the honesty of his conversion to free silver, as it has occurred since June. If he is for free silver he ought to have resigned a month ago. He has not. He is a gold man, who, unlike Bryan, travels on annual railway passes. I am afraid that he, like many other thinking Democrats, are not honestly for unsound money, but they consider half a dollar earned in office worth a dollar earned at hard labor, and use free silver as a medium to get into office."

This reminded me of the very statement of another prominent Democrat, who said: "We Democrats had

no other way to gain the ascendancy, no other fallacy with which to catch votes, and like the fisherman we have to use an artificial minnow, because we have no live bait, and I fear that some poor Republican suckers will be caught by the glitter of this free silver artificial and sham bait."

The farmer who grumbles over the low price of wheat, but not over the big crops, who does not know that the market is governed by wheat imported from free silver India and from free silver Argentine Republic, wheat raised on inexhaustibly fertile soil by laborers paid with the cheap wages of all free silver countries, may be caught by the bait, if he does not investigate it. The same farmer who does not know we cannot export much wheat for that reason, and corn because foreigners will not eat corn bread, and who votes to cut down wages and to make idle men, will find his home market overstocked and few to buy, will be caught, landed and killed by this same sham, yet glittering bait being held out on the end of the free silver fishing rod of unscrupulous politicians.

Think a minute and see if the most zealous advocates of free silver are not men who want to use it to hoist them into office, and men who have nothing to lose—men who in this state are termed "shiftless," but who in the west turn to Populists and thence to Anarchists—who want the government to do everything from the railroads down to the free silver fishing rod, and support them in idleness, without giving one single idea of how they expect the government to get the money with which to meet the modest demands. Remember the people are the government. That a dishonest government means a dishonest people and that a government, like an individual, if not honest, is not respected, and has no credit, financially or morally.

I think the percentage of Republicans who have run off after a strange and unknown god, in this particular section, are about 7 per cent of the whole, and the Democrats who have refused to be swallowed by that hybrid convention of crazed Democrats and still crazier Populists, are about one per cent. But when the idea of November arrive I think the party lines will be pretty well drawn. I hope to see more Democrats than one per cent refuse to be swallowed up by the big mouthed animal called Populism, and to see the Republicans stand for sound money and a stable government, and who will not refuse, as did the so-called Democratic convention, to vote for a resolution to sustain existing contracts and the credit of this government at all times and under all circumstances.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON.
N. B.—Am I a Democrat? Well, I can't say, for there is no Democratic platform or Democratic party at present. If there was I would be one. For from Father Abraham's, alias Thomas Jefferson's, time down to the time that the Democracy fell into the pit of Populism, and hence, no Democratic convention ever failed to elect a sound money. I couldn't find but one Democratic plank to stand on and as that was so narrow I couldn't get there with both feet. I like thousands of others, fell off. Where did we land? We haven't landed. We are caught between steel above and purgatory below, but as we are hanging on to the limit of sound money, when we do drop we will light on our feet and shortly thereafter the erring brother who escapes the maw of Populism to return we will wash, cleanse and cloth him in purple and fine linen, set him on the throne and kill the fattened calf. See if this does not come true in the next six years. A. M.

FROM MORGANTOWN.

Interesting Notes Incident to the Teachers' Institute—Some Newsy Gossip.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., August 5.—The Monongalia county teachers' institute has been progressing finely and has been increasing in interest all week, thus far. The instructors have been very fortunate in having the presence of many able instructors, who have assisted whenever called on to do so. The state superintendent of schools, Hon. Virgil A. Lewis, was present all day yesterday and spent the entire afternoon explaining the graded school manual to the great benefit of the pupils. Mr. Lewis is greatly interested in his explanation of the graded course of study, and all the teachers think they can come more nearly following it, than they could have done without the explanation by the superintendent. Mr. Lewis goes from here to Wetzel county, and thence to the west. The fact is that he is hustling around to see how his fences stand in regard to his nomination next week in Wheeling.

J. R. Trotter, the Republican candidate for state superintendent of schools, is present to-day and gave an earnest talk to the teachers, which was well received by everyone. (All think that no difference which one of the two gentlemen is elected to the position, which he aspires, our schools will be safe. Mr. Trotter is well equipped for the school work. He is a graduate of the West Virginia University and of Harvard College. His last talk to the teachers was very interesting and he leaves with the good wishes of all.

Professor Deahl left this evening for Parkersburg, where he goes to meet with the Normal School regents. As the contract is to be let for the erection of the new building to take the place of the one recently burned, Professor Deahl has proved himself an able educator, and his work during the week has been of the most satisfactory kind; he leaves followed by the good wishes of all the teachers, especially the ladies.

Professor H. C. Showalter gave his lecture last evening, subject "The American Girl and What to do With Her," to a fair audience. He was assisted by his daughter in the rendering of vocal and instrumental music, both before and after the lecture. The singing of Miss Showalter fairly captured the audience. She has a voice of wonderful compass and sweetness, and if she receives proper training, she is bound to rank among our leading singers.

The leading educators of the place are aiding the institute by their presence, and their help whenever called on to do so. Professor Stewart, of the university, is especially helpful to the teachers in all he says and does. Professor T. C. Miller gave one of his characteristic talks on the subject of literature, which was greatly enjoyed by all who heard him. He attended the Buffalo School of Pedagogy, after the meeting of the National Teachers' Association, and is full of enthusiasm, after coming in contact with the greatest minds of our country, educationally. He considers Professor N. C. Schaeffer, state superintendent of Pennsylvania, one of the leading educators of the age. Dr. Schaeffer is at Moundsville.

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SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

this week, as one of the instructors of the Marshall county teachers' institute, Professor A. L. Wade, arrived to-day and since his arrival, it began to look like old times again. Professor Wade I suppose, did more than any one man to give an impetus to the schools of Monongalia county, so that now they stand among the foremost in the state.

The two Morgantown editors, Messrs. Morgan and Fleming, are at their posts daily, the former an earnest advocate of sound money and protection and the latter the same genial gentleman that he always has been, with proclivities for anything and everything that he thinks will be to the advantage of West Virginia. I do not inquire into his political preferences, but he is a Democrat and will go for what he thinks will be the best for the state.

The Hotel Franklin is full of guests that some eight or ten other houses are brought into regulation to accommodate them and still they come. The arrival of the Pittsburgh packets yesterday and to-day gave new life to business.

MINERAL COUNTY.

In Good Shape Politically—Interesting Gossip About Men and Manners.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER.
PIEDMONT, W. Va., August 7.—The political "pot" has not begun to seethe yet in this county. There are a number of former Democrats who will not support the Chicago nominees. Free silver at the rate of 16 to 1 has not any followers in this neck of the woods. Mineral county will give a large majority for protection, reciprocity and sound money.

The call has not yet been issued for the Republican county nominating convention to name the local county ticket. Captain W. E. Heskit will be the nominee for sheriff. He has a clean record and is fully capable to discharge the duties of this responsible office to the satisfaction of the people. He has many warm personal friends in the opposite party. He has always been an active Republican worker.

It looks like the Hon. John T. McGraw, of Taylor, will prove to be the "dark horse" in the Second district Democratic congressional convention, although he has Hon. William G. Brown, Jr. of Preston, and Messrs. Woods, of Barbours, and Scott, of Randolph, after the same prize, and from Mineral county the name of Senator P. S. Hyde has been favorably mentioned. Captain Boggs, of Pendleton, is making quite a fight for the auditorship from the hands of the silver Democrats.

Hon. S. B. Elkins passed through Piedmont last evening, en route to New York.

Hon. A. G. Dayton, the present efficient representative in the house of representatives, made a telling argument at the Keyser meeting, and by the way, he has made many recruits in the Monongahela Valley, by his active work in favor of slack water navigation for that river to Fairmont.

Mr. Dayton will more than hold his own in this county.

Mr. George T. Coshorn, of Grant county, is after the nomination for state senator from the Twelfth district. He has many friends in Mineral who would be pleased to see him honored by the Republican party. This senatorial district is strongly Democratic, but the honors should be "divided," and a new man should occasionally be placed before the people. No one man owns the people.

TUCKER REPUBLICANS

Nominate a Strong and Winning Ticket at Their Convention.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.
PARSONS, W. Va., August 5.—The Republicans of this county nominated an exceedingly strong ticket here last Saturday, August 1, one that will win this fall, and the Democrats are at sea. The convention was large and enthusiastic and the nomination made without a jar. Every Republican will support the ticket.

Following are the nominations made, viz: Sheriff, H. H. Lint; prosecuting attorney, William G. Conley; clerk of the circuit court, Wayne K. Pitts; clerk of the county court, Charles H. Hebb; assessor, W. B. Haller; surveyor, S. O. Billings; commissioner, A. B. Flanagan.

Cabinet Crisis in Germany.

BERLIN, Aug. 7.—The Neusten Nachrichten announces that Prince Hohenlohe, the imperial chancellor, has resigned and that he has left Berlin for Kassel. It is added that further changes are impending in the ministry of finance.

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by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh), that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars; free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.

Sold by Druggists, 75c.

Train Connections via Ohio River Railroad for Cincinnati, Louisville, Philadelphia and New York.

Since the new train schedule went into effect on the Ohio River railroad, train No. 1 (Cincinnati Flyer) leaves Wheeling 6:25 a. m., Parkersburg 10:15 a. m., Pomeroy 12:16 p. m., Pt. Pleasant 1:20 p. m., Gallipolis 1:30 p. m., arrives Kenova 2:40 p. m., making direct connection with the famous F. V. V., on the Chesapeake & Ohio railway, arriving at Cincinnati 6 p. m., Lexington 6:45 p. m., Louisville 8:50 p. m. Connections made in Cincinnati for all points south, west and north-west.

Parlor car between Wheeling and Kenova.

Train No. 2 (New York Flyer) leaves Kenova 7:25 a. m., Huntington 7:45 a. m., Gallipolis 9:00 a. m., Pt. Pleasant 9:27 a. m., Pomeroy 9:55 a. m., Parkersburg 11:55 a. m., Wheeling 12:32 p. m., arriving Wheeling 1:30 p. m., making direct connections with the Pennsylvania line, arriving Pittsburgh 5:15 p. m., Harrisburg 2:10 a. m., Washington 7:40 a. m., Baltimore 6:20 a. m., Philadelphia 6:30 a. m., New York 7:45 a. m. Parlor car between Kenova and Wheeling.

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POLITICAL.
JUDICIAL CONVENTION.
The Republican Judicial Convention for the purpose of nominating two judges for the First Judicial District, composed of the counties of Hancock, Brooke, Ohio and Marshall, will be held in the chamber of Part 1 of the Circuit Court, at Wheeling, W. Va., Thursday, August 13, 1896, at 1 o'clock p. m.

PROPOSALS.
FOR SALE.
The National Collection Agency, of Washington, D. C., will dispose of the following judgments:

WEST VIRGINIA.
Belington Coal and Coke Co., Belington, \$32 45; John L. Baker, Bluefield, \$8 11; J. R. Gillespie & Co., Bretz, \$47 31; Farrell, Norman & Co., Brookville, \$43 01; J. P. Bowersmaster, Princeton, \$8 55; Aug. Schulte, Charlestown, \$25 72; G. M. Christian, Dingess, \$54 01; G. E. Benedict, East Bank, \$15 01; T. J. Baker, Fetterman, \$126 01; C. Rogers, Farmington, \$95 35; G. W. Shiner & Son, Freed, \$32 50; W. T. Lilly, Gratton, \$48 61; B. W. Cowan, Greenwood, \$24 90; M. Parsons, Hendricks, \$21 20; A. M. Linder, Keystone, \$30 12; P. A. Lyons, \$61 23; D. Kennedy, Peersville, \$106 01; D. R. Payne, Peersville, \$42 50; Payne & Weaver, Peersville, \$157 01; C. W. Wheeler, Rowlesburg, \$15 60; S. T. Wheeler, Rowlesburg, \$81 55; Stone, Bowden & Co., Rowlesburg, \$78 15; J. D. Cowger & Co., Rowlesburg, \$75 15; J. D. Lass, Rush, \$30 85; Bartlett Bros., Triplett, \$59 75.

KENTUCKY.
W. H. Smith, Barbourville, \$32 45; Robert Allen, Burkesville, \$202 33; J. C. B. Allen, Crockettville, \$22 01; J. C. Stewart, Evans, Chicago, \$88 61; Moses Turner, Evans, \$10 50; Leo Craft, Galbardi, \$11 85; R. E. & J. F. Paul, Glasgow, \$202 60; A. M. Pennington, Bonville, \$261 01; Harry Weddington, Lanesville, \$126 81; W. S. Emmal, Middleboro, \$102 61; J. B. Turner & Co., Mingo, \$32 61; L. C. Bailey, Oil Springs, \$34 66; E. Quigley, Pewee Valley, \$118 66; W. V. Jones, Pittsburgh, \$20 41; Union Coal Co., Pittsburgh, \$23 30; Matt. Shearer, by House, \$22 70; R. H. Brashear, Salt Creek, \$422 25; Leford & Asher, Spring Creek, \$481 33.

OHIO.
Chas. McRoom, Akron, \$145 70; G. A. Harro, Ironton, \$40 00; John Madigan, Sidney, \$70 52.

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